

## Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development

DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING Board of Dental Examiners

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## **Updated Dental Board Statement Regarding COVID-19 Guidance**

Dear Licensee,

The Alaska Board of Dental Examiners has removed specific COVID-19 guidance. As healthcare providers, it is your responsibility to make informed decisions based on the information you have available. The Board expects licensees to prioritize patient and staff well-being and adhere to the standard of care at all times.

Dentists are encouraged to continue following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) COVID-19 "Guidance for Dental Settings" to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

On June 10, 2021, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued an emergency temporary standard for COVID-19 in healthcare settings. For the full document, please see 29 CFR 1910, Subpart U. Although dentistry is largely exempt from the new OSHA standard, the American Dental Association (ADA) notes that dental practices must follow key provisions such as pre-appointment patient screenings for COVID-19, screening anyone entering the dental practice prior to entry, denying entry to anyone suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, and having a written COVID-19 plan. For details on compliance with OSHA's COVID-19 temporary standard in healthcare settings, visit the ADA's "OSHA COVID-19 Healthcare Emergency Temporary Standard."

Best Regards, David Nielson, DDS

President, Alaska Board of Dental Examiners